

CAPSULE SUMMARY
6605 Old Branch Road (PG: 76B-28)
Prince George's County, Maryland

Constructed in the 1920s, the modest frame house is characteristic of the Craftsman style houses of the period. The property went through a series of owners between 1919 and 1945, when Ralph and Lillian Gran, who own the house today, purchased it. The construction of this house in the 1920s signals the population growth that was occurring in Prince George's County at this time.

The house at 6605 Old Branch Avenue is set back from the road on a tree covered sloping lot. A long paved driveway encircles the house. The house is two-and-a-half stories in height and three bays in width. It is set on a poured concrete foundation and the wood frame walls are clad in weatherboard. A central brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof. A shed roof dormer sits on the northeast roof slope. On the southeast side of the house, there is a one-story, side gable frame addition with a poured concrete foundation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. PG:76B-28

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 6605 Old Branch Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Temple Hills vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Prince George's County code 33 zip code 20748

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____

No X

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

6605 Old Branch Avenue

Prince George's County, Maryland

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Parged Concrete

Roof Side Gable: Asphalt Shingle

Walls Frame: Wood Weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1920-1950

Significant Dates c. 1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

6605 Old Branch Avenue
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 2.76 acres

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 6605 Old Branch Avenue is designated as Parcel 22, Grid B1 as indicated on Map 107.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 6605 Old Branch Avenue has historically been associated with Parcel 22 since its construction circa 1920.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 7, 1999
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====

12. Property Owner

=====

name Ralph M. and Lillian C. Gran
street & number 6605 Old Branch Avenue telephone _____
city or town Temple Hills state MD zip code 20748

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-28

Section 7 Page 1

6605 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

The house at 6605 Old Branch Avenue is set back from the road on a tree covered sloping lot. A long paved driveway encircles the house. Constructed in the 1920s, the house is two-and-a-half stories in height and three bays in width. It is set on a parged concrete foundation and the wood frame walls are clad in weatherboard. A central brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof. A shed roof dormer sits on the northeast roof slope. On the southeast side of the house, there is a one-story, side gable frame addition with a poured concrete foundation.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The first story of the façade or northeast elevation features a centered entry flanked by paired windows. The entry consists of a single leaf, wood panel-and-light door. Six 6/1 wood windows with square edged surrounds pierce the façade. A one-story, three-bay porch, which has been enclosed with screening, extends across the full width of the house. Set on a concrete pier foundation, the shed roof porch is supported by turned wood posts. The shed dormer, clad in wood weatherboard, features a six-light wood awning window and exposed rafter tails. The northeast elevation of the addition contains a one-light fixed window.

The basement is accessed through the concrete and asphalt shingle bulkhead on the northwest elevation. Two replacement 1/1 aluminum windows pierce the first story of the elevation and two 6/1 wood windows pierce the second story. The half-story features a four-light fixed window. Wide eaves and a wood vergeboard accent the side gable roof. The wide, overhanging eaves are characteristic of Craftsman style houses.

The original rear or southwest elevation is completely obscured by the two-story shed roof addition. The first story of the addition features a 6/6 wood window, a fifteen-light wood door, and a one-light metal sliding window. A pent roof divides the first and second stories. A 6/6 and a 6/1 wood window pierce the second story. The rear elevation of the side addition features a four-sided projecting window bay with one-light windows.

The one story addition obscures the first story of the southeast elevation. It contains a paired 6/6 wood window. The second story

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 2

6605 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
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=====
contains two 6/6 wood windows and the half-story has a four-light
fixed window.

SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:

To the rear of the house, there are two frame outbuildings dating from the 1920s. The one-and-a-half story barn is two bays in width. Set on a parged concrete foundation, the frame building is clad in vertical board wood siding and is covered by a side gable, asphalt shingle roof. A roll-up panel-and-light door and a double leaf door with wood German siding pierce the façade of the barn, which appears to have been converted to a garage. The one-story, three-bay wide shed is set on a concrete foundation. It features vertical board wood cladding, double leaf vertical board doors, and two window openings. Covering the shed is an asphalt shingle shed roof with exposed rafter tails.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 8 Page 1

6605 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

=====

Constructed in the 1920s, the modest frame house is characteristic of the Craftsman style houses of the period. The property went through a series of owners between 1919 and 1945, when Ralph and Lillian Gran, who own the house today, purchased it. The construction of this house in the 1920s signals the population growth that was occurring in Prince George's County at this time.

The typical Bungalow/Craftsman style, which gained popularity in the early 20th century, can be identified by the horizontal lines, deep, full-width porches, low-pitched roofs, broad eaves, an emphasis on natural materials, and a general air of informality. First used as vacation cabins, the Bungalow's small scale, informal floor plans, sheltering porches, and inexpensive building materials made it a natural addition to suburban communities.¹ Typical of Craftsman style houses, this dwelling features exposed rafter tails, wide eaves, double-hung windows and wide wood surrounds on the doors and windows. The bungalow became the dominant style of middle and working class households in the early years of the 20th century. These houses were very popular because they were inexpensive to design and build. In fact, the style was spread primarily by plans sold in popular catalogues, rather than by architects.

The construction of this house in the 1920s signals the population growth that was occurring in Prince George's County at this time. The population rose steadily in the early 20th century, with the population in the county nearly doubling between 1910 and 1930. Much of this growth occurred in the suburban corridors that radiated outward from the District of Columbia along the Baltimore and Potomac rail line through southern Maryland and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad located in the northwestern portion of the county. In Prince George's County, suburban development intensified around the existing communities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as streetcar lines and early automobiles made the suburbs accessible to the upper middle and middle classes. The automobile and corollary new road construction resulted in suburbanization of previously sparsely settled portions of northern Prince George's County. This house predates the heavy suburbanization that occurred in this region of the county. Located near Andrews Air Force Base, this area of Prince George's

¹ James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "A Nation in Bungalove," *Old House Journal*, Volume XXIV, Number 2, March/April 1996, page 35-36.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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6605 Old Branch Avenue
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County was greatly impacted by the building of the military installation in 1942 and then again in the 1960s with the completion of the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495).

National Register Evaluation:

The house at 6605 Old Branch Avenue is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Not Recommended X

Comments:

Review, OPS: *C. M.* ✓ Date: 12/1/95

Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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6605 Old Branch Avenue
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. PG: 76B-28

6605 Old Branch Avenue
name of property
Prince George's County, MD
county and state

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Chain of Title:

March 18, 1889: Julia Murphy and John H. Murphy, trustee, to
Ida J. Merchant
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber JWB 10 Folio 733

August 2, 1919: Ida J. Merchant to Charles C. Wilcox
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 142 Folio 248

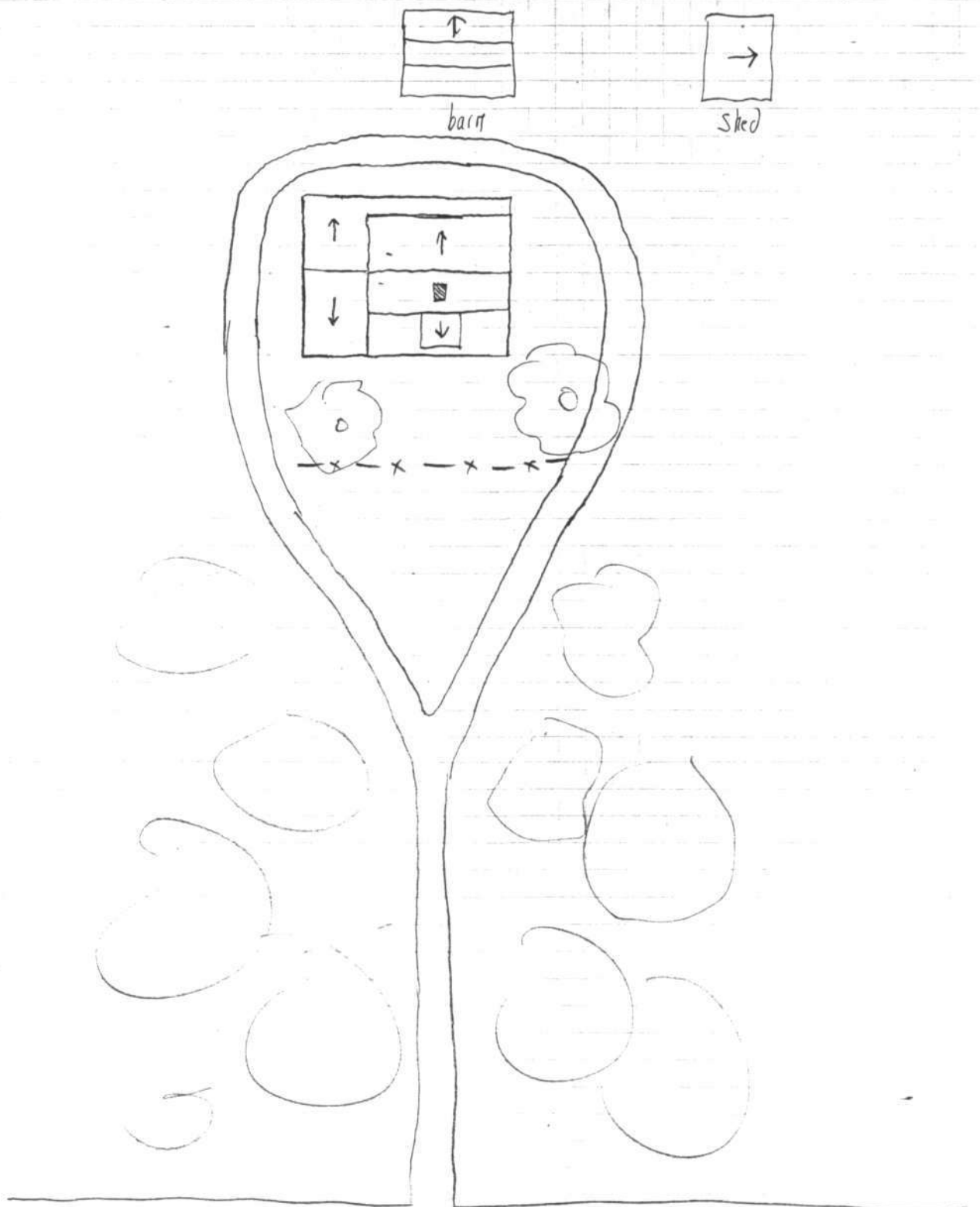
June 23, 1932: Charles C. and Edna B. Wilcox to Clara D.
McCarter
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 387 Folio 306

December 14, 1939: James F. McCarter, individually and as a
Committee for his wife Clara D. McCarter, to
J. Letton and Clara D. Martin
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 548 Folio 129

August 25, 1941: J. Letton and Clara D. Martin to Maurice H. and
Annie E. Rackey
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 624 Folio 55

December 11, 1943: Annie E. Rackey to Robert E. and Mary R. Amiss
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 713 Folio 463

May 8, 1945: Robert E. and Mary R. Amiss to Ralph M. and
Lillian C. Gran
Land Records of Prince George's County
Liber 786 Folio 185



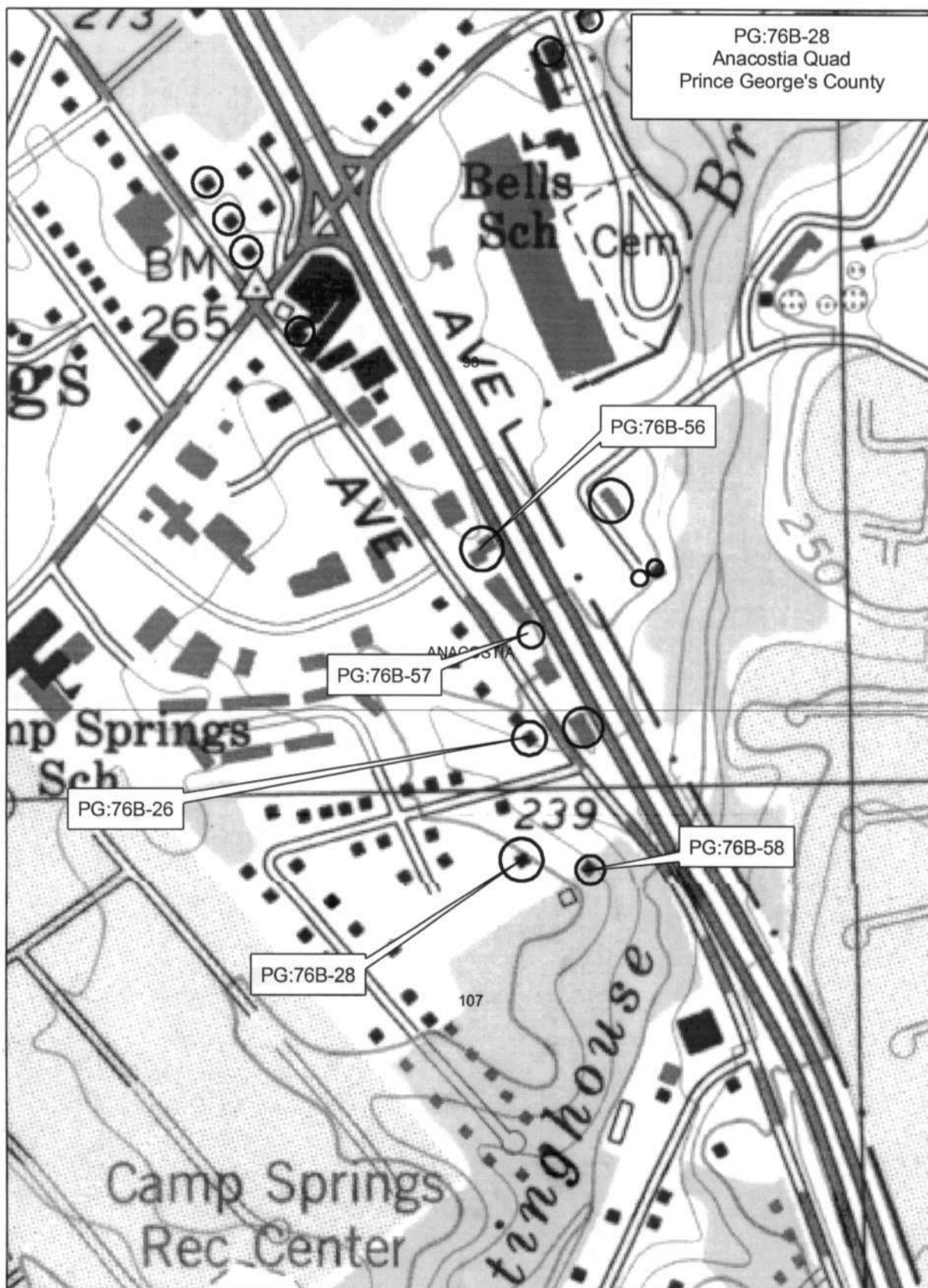
Old Branch Avenue

6605 Old Branch Avenue PG: 76B-28

Prince George's County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale

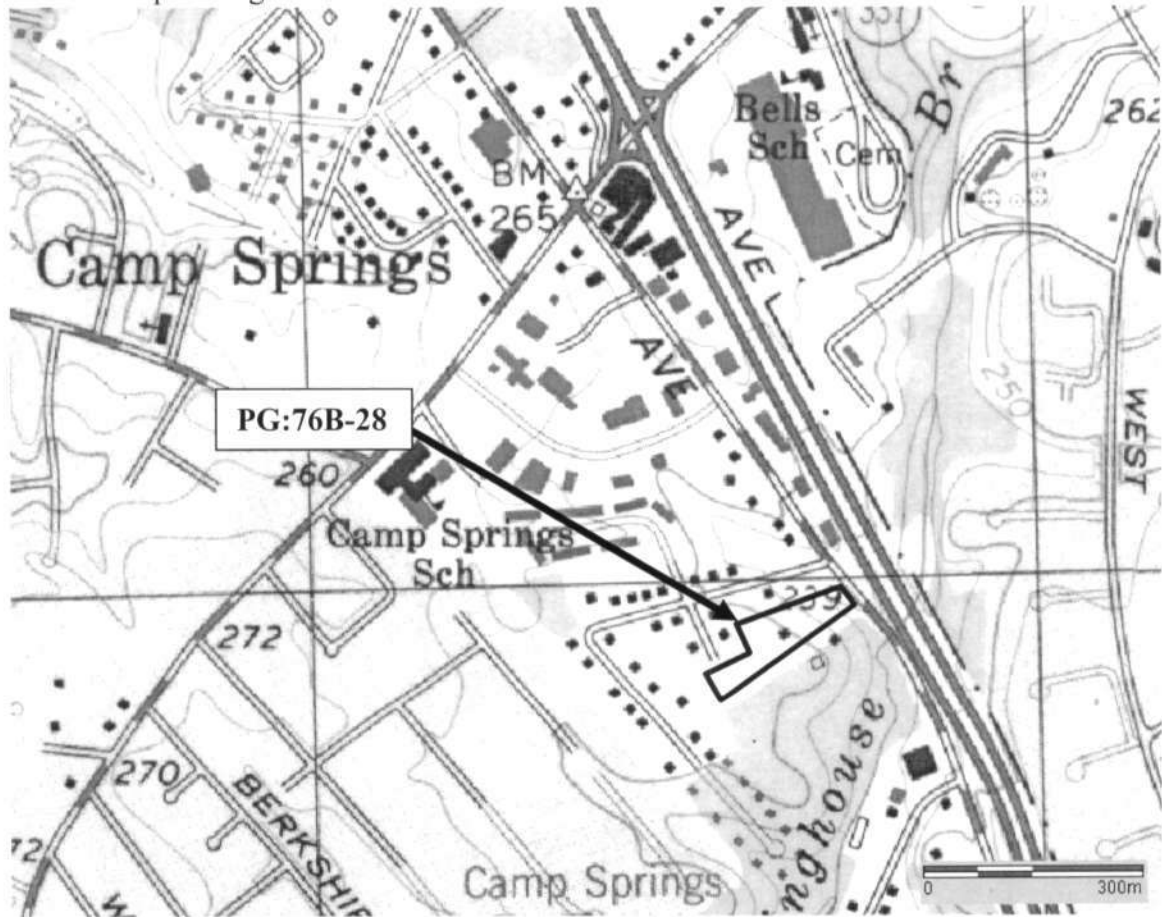




PG:76B-28

6605 Old Branch Avenue, Temple Hills

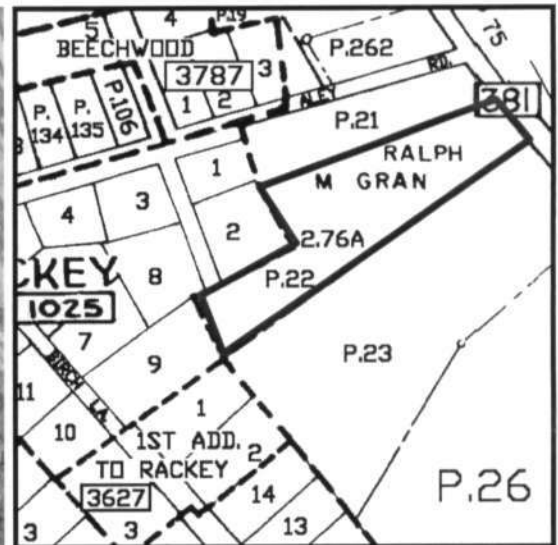
Anacostia quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 107, p. 22





76-768-28

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHFO

northeast elevation

1 of 6



PG: 76B-28

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

northwest elevation

2 of 6



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6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPO

southwest elevation

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PG: 768-28

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1999

MD SHPD

southeast elevation

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PG:76B-28

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JULY 1999
MD SHPD

shed 1 EAST CORNER

5 of 6



PG: 76B-28

6605 OLD BRANCH AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
JULY 1999
MD SHPO

barn, NORTHEAST ELEVATION
6 of 6